

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ASUNCI 03142 01 OF 02 020257Z
ACTION ARA-14

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 749

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 ASUNCION 3142

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: MASS, PA
SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE: PARAGUAY

1. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY SUGGESTION FOR PAPER REGARDING US
MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO PARAGUAY WITH PROPOSED LEVELS FOR DECISIONS
PACKAGES.

2. DECISION UNIT OVERVIEW: INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE
PARAGUAY: DECISION UNIT 5149.

GOAL

TO ENCOURAGE THE EVOLUTION OF A MODER STATE IN PARAGUAY WICH
IS POLITICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY PROGRESSIVE, WHICH IS FRIENDLY
TOWARDS THE US, AND WHICH WILL NOT BECOME AN AREA OF INSTABILITY
IN LATIN AMERICAM. SUCH A STATE WOULD BE CAPABLE OF
MAINTAINING CLOSER RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES AND WOULD
BE MORE SUPPORTIVE OF US GLOBAL INTERESTS IN PROMOTING
HUMAN RIGHTS AND CONTRIBUTING TO ENCHANCED ECONOMIC AND
COMMERICAL TIES OF BENEFIT TO BOTH COUNTRIES.

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PAGE 02 ASUNCI 03142 01 OF 02 020257Z

MAJOR OBJECTIVE.
TO PROVIDE CONTINUED ACCESS TO PARAGUAY'S POLITICALLY INFLUENTIAL
MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT AND, THEREBY, ADVANCE AND PROTECT US
INTERESTS INCLUDING PROMOTING RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, OBTAINING
SUPPORT FOR US POSITIONS ON KEY ISSUES IN TINERNATIONAL
FORA, SUPPRESSING NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING AND ADVANCING US
ECONOMIC AND COMMERICAL INTERSTS.

CURRENT METHODS OF ACCOMPLISHING THE MAJOR OBJECTIVE.

FMS CREDIT PROVIDES FINANCING TO PROCURE ITEMS WHICH HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO EFFORTS BY THE MILITARY TO ENGAGE IN DEVELOPMENT-ORIENTED ACTIVITIES SUCH AS HEAVY ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT AND EQUIPMENT TO MAINTAIN THE COUNTRY'S MILITARY-RUN AND ONLY DOMESTIC AIRLINE. IT ALSO CONTRIBUTES TO MAINTAINING THE CURRENT ADEQUATE LEVEL OF THE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT, PARTLY DEVELOPED WITH PREVIOUS MAP PROGRAMS. THE AMOUNT OF CREDIT IS NOT SUFFICIENT TO ALLOW SIGNIFICANT MODERIZATION OR UP-GRADING OF MILITARY FORCES.

IMETP PROVIDES AN ANNUAL TOUR OF THE UNITED STATES BY APPROXIMATELY 40 STUDENT OF PARAGUAY'S COMMAND AND GERNAL STAFF COLLEGE WHICH HAS BEEN VERY EFFECTIVE IN EXERTING INFLUENCE IN THE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT. IN ADDITION, THE PROGRAM PROVIDES PROFESSIONAL MILITARY TRAINING TO A LIMITED NUMBER OF OFFICERS (APPROXIMATELY 75) AND TECHNICAL TRAINING FOR SOME TECHNICIANS WHICH IS NECESSARY TO ADEQUATELY MAINTAIN EQUIPMENT PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED UNDER THE MAP PROGRAM. THE CURRENT LEVEL OF \$.6 MILLION DOLLARS PROVIDES AN EXCELLENT PROGRAM HIGHLY SUITED TO THE NEEDS OF THE PARAGUAYAN MILITARY PROGRAM. IF CUT TO \$.5 MILLION THE PROGRAM WOULD BE LIMITED, LOSE SOME EFFECTIVENESS BUT WOULD STILL BE USEFUL. A\$.3 MILLION PROGRAM WOULD BE THE LOWERST AMOUNT THAT WOULD MAKE AN IMETP PROGRAM OF ANY USE TO THE US OR THE PARAGUAYANS. A LOWER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 ASUNCI 03142 01 OF 02 020257Z

LEVEL WOULD RESULT IN REDUCTION WHICH COULD BE TAKEN BY THE PARAGUAYANS AS EVIDENCE OF US DISPLEASURE AND A DESIRE ON OUR PART TO TERMINATE THE PROGRAM.

ALTERNATIVES.

RELY ENTIRELY ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

THE GOP HAS GREATLY APPRECIATED US MILITARY ASSISTANCE ANDIT, AS PART OF THE US PRESENCE IN PARAGUAY, HAS GIVEN US LEVERAGE WITH THE HIGHLY INFLUENTIAL MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT. IT HAS ALSO CONTRIBUTED TO PROJECTS ASSISTING PARAGUAY'S ECONOMIC GROWTH SUCH AS ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND THE MAINTENANCE OF THE COUNTRY'S ONLY INTERNAL AIRLINE.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS.

THE PARAGUAYAN MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT, HEADED BY PRESIDENT (GENERAL) STROESSNER, EXERTS A DOMINANT INFLUENCE ON THE GOP. AS A RESULT, MILITARY ASSISTANCE ASSUMES AN IMPORTANCE BYOND ITS NOMINAL VALUE. YET IT IS POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE SUCH ASSISTANCE AT ALEVEL WHICH SHOULD NOT WORRY ANY OF PARAGUAY'S NEIGHBORS. THEREFORE, A RELATIVELY LIMITED AMOUNT OF

ASSISTANCE PROVIDES SIGNIFICANT RETURNS TO THE US. OUR MAIN POLICY DIFFERENCE WITH PARAGUAY STEMS FROM THE GOP'S PERFORMANCE IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS AREA. THE GOVERNMENT HAS HAD A RECORD OF PERMITTING TORTURE AND DETAINING POLITICAL PRISONERS FOR INDEFINITE OR VERY LONG PERIODS OF TIME WITHOUT RECOURSE TO JUDICIAL PROCEDURES. RECENTLY THERE HAS BEEN SOME IMPROVEMENT IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS AREA BUT THERE IS STILL A LONG WAY TO GO. IF THE GOP'S PERFORMANCE IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE POOR OR WORSEN, THE WITHHOLDING OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE COULD BE USED AS A MEANS OF DRAMATIZING US REPUDIATION OF ITS BEHAVIOR. THE SHORT TERM AFFECTS OF SUCH ACTION MIGHT WELL BE TO STIFFEN GOP REISTANCE TO MAKING THE REFORMS WE HAVE, WITH MODEST SUCCESS, BEEN URGING ON THEM.

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PAGE 04 ASUNCI 03142 01 OF 02 020257Z

3. DECISION PACKAGE: INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE:
PARAGUAY: 5140-1

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION:
PROVIDE FMS CREDIT TO ALLOW THE PARAGUAYAN ARMED FORCES TO MAINTAIN CURRENT LEVELS OF MILITARY EQUIPEMTN IN AN OPERATIONAL STATE.

RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:

1979

1977 1978 THIS PACKAGE CUMULATIVE

FMSCR .5 .5 .3 .3

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PAGE 01 ASUNCI 03142 02 OF 02 020311Z
ACTION ARA-14

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SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVE:

TO PROVIDE MILITARY ASSISTANCE IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN ACCESS TO AND INFLUENCE WITH THE POLITICALLY INFLUENTIAL MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT. HELP TO MAINTAIN IN AN OPERATIONAL STATE ITEMS PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED UNDER THE US MAP PROGRAM.

IMPACT ON MAJOR OBJECTIVES:

CONTINUED ACCESS TO MILITARY LEADERS WHICH THIS MINIMAL ASSISTANCE WOULD PROVIDE COULD BE USED IN SUPPORT OF OUR EFFORTS TO PROMOTE US OBJECTIVES IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS AREAD AND HELP TO RETAIN THE GOP'S SUPPORT IN OTHER AREAS SUCH AS KEY ISSUES IN INTERNATIONAL FOR. THE SIZABLE REDUCTION FROM EARLIER LEVELS, HOWEVER,

WOULD BE SEEN AS RELATED TO US DIATISFACTION WITH PARAGUAY'S HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD.

OTHER INFORMATION:

ANY LESS ASSISTANCE MIGHT PRECIPITATE THE FOLLOWING, AS WOULD A LEVEL OF ZERO: THE GOP WOULD CONSIDER THAT THE US IS NO LONGER INTERESTED IN MAINTAINING THE SAME GOOD RELATIONSHIP WE HAVE ENJOED IN THE PAST. IT WOULD LIKELY BECOME LESS SENSITIVE TO OUR HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS AND WOULD TURN TO OTHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 ASUNCI 03142 02 OF 02 020311Z

MILITARY REGIMES IN THE AREA FOR SUPPORT AND FOLLOW THEIR ADVICE IN WAYS WHICH WOULD BE COUNTER TO US EFFORTS, PARTICULARLY IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD. THE GOP WOULD ALSO BE LESS RECEPTIVE TO US REQUESTS FOR SUPPORT IN INTERNATIONAL FORA PARTICULARLY ON MATTERS OF LITTLE DIRECT INTEREST TO PARAGUAY.

4. DECISION PACKAGE (5140-2): INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE: PARAGUAY

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION:

TO PROVIDE FMS CREDIT TO ENABLE THE PARAGUAYAN ARMED FORCES TO OBTAIN SOME DFENSE ARTICLES, PRIMARILY EXCESS DEFENSE ARTICLES, TO BE USED FOR DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS AND TO PERMIT THE MAINTENANCE OF CURRENT LEVELS OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT WHICH ARE PRIMARILY OLD US EQUIPMENT.

RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:

1979

1977 1978 THIS PACKAGE CUMULATIVE
FMSCR .5 .5 PLUS .1 .4

SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVE:

TO PROVIDE MILITARY ASSISTANCE IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN A SIGNIFICANT LEVEL OF ACCESS TO AND INFLUENCE WITH THE POLITICALLY INFLUENTIAL MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT. ALLOW FOR SOME ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF DEVELOPMENT-RELATED EQUIPMENT FOR THE MILITARY.

IMPACT ON MAJOR OBJECTIVES:

A PROGRAM AT THIS LEVEL SHOULD PROVIDE CONTINUED ACCESS TO THE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT AND HELP MAINTAIN GOP SUPPORT FOR US INTERESTS E.G., ON KEY ISSUES IN INTERNATIONAL FOR. THE SLIGHT REDUCTION, HOWEVER, ALSO COULD BE USED TO SIGNAL US DISATISFACTION WITH THE GOP'S PERFORMANCE IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS AREA.

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PAGE 03 ASUNCI 03142 02 OF 02 020311Z

OTHER INFORMATION:

THIS SLIGHT REDUCTION OF ASSISTANCE FROM CURRENT LEVELS HAS THE ADVANTAGE OF PROVIDING THE US A MEANS TO SIGNAL TO THE GOP THAT ITS PERFORMANCE IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS AREA SHOULD IMPROVE WHILE AVOIDING THE KIND OF NEGATIVE REACTION A LARGER REDUCTION WOULD EVOKE.

5. DECISION PACKAGE (5140-3): INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE:

PARAGUAY

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION:

PROVIDE FMS CREDIT TO ALLOW THE PARAGUAYAN ARMED FORCES TO OBTAIN DEFENSE ARTICLES AND SERVICE, PRIMARILY EXCESS DEFENSE ARTICLES, WHICH CAN BE USED FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES AS WELL AS TO MAINTAIN CURRENT LEVELS OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT, WHICH ARE MOSTLY AMERICAN, IN AN OPERATIONAL STATE.

RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:

1979

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FMSCR .5	.5	PLUS .2	.5

SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVE:

TO PROVIDE MILITARY ASSISTANCE IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE BEST POSSIBLE ACCESS TO AND INFLUENCE WITH THE POLITICALLY INFLUENTIAL MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT. PROVIDE CONTINUING SUPPORT AS RECOGNITION OF THE GOOD RELATIONSHIP WE HAVE HAD WITH THE GOP IN THE PAST AND OUR HOPES THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO DO SO IN THE FUTURE. HELP TO ASSIST THE MAINTENANCE OF ITEMS PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED UNDER THE US MAP PROGRAM IN THE BEST CONDITION POSSIBLE.

IMPACT ON MAJOR OBJECTIVES:

MAINTAINING CURRENT LEVELS OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE WILL PROTECT OUR CONTINUED ACCESS TO THE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT AND ALLOW US TO MAKE OUR CONCERNS REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS KNOWN TO A HIGHLY INFLUENTIAL SECTOR OF THE SOCIETY. IT SHOULD ALSO HELP

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PAGE 04 ASUNCI 03142 02 OF 02 020311Z

US TO MAINTAIN THE GOP'S SUPPORT IN OTHER AREAS SUCH AS KEY ISSUES IN INTERNATIONAL FORA AND NARCOTICSTRAFFICKING. IT MIGHT ALSO HELP US TO MAINTAIN A POSITION WHICH COULD ACT AS A COUNTER TO THE PRESSURES OF OTHER MILITARY GOVERNMENTS IN THE SOUTHERN CONE TO TURN THE GOP TOWARD A POLICY OPPOSED TO THE US'S IN HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS.

OTHER INFORMATION:

THIS LEVEL OF FMS CREDIT IS PROBABLY THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT THAT THE GOP CAN PRESENTLY ABSORB EFFECTIVELY DUE TO THE NEWNESS OF THE PROGRAM IN PARAGUAY. AS MORE FAMILIARITY IS GAINED, THE GOP MAY REQUEST A HIGHER LEVEL OF CREDITS, PROBABLY FOR SPECIFIC ITEMS OF USED US MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO ADD TO ITS INVENTORY IN ORDER TO UPGRADE ITS FORCES. THESE WOULD BE CONSIDERED OUTSIDE THE PRESENT PROGRAM.

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